

# Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## ***THE CONNECTION***

***February 2016***

### **CHRISTMAS IS GONE– EASTER IS COMING!**

Dear Centenary Family,

I'm not ready for Lent! It's not that I don't appreciate this season of the year that begins with Ash Wednesday, on February 10, and is meant to prepare us for Easter, on March 27. It's just that the way the calendar falls this year, I feel like I'm still cleaning up from Christmas. Maybe some of you feel that way also.

But, I'm sure I need what the season of Lent offers. If I were to do a word cloud of terms, I associate with Lent, I would use words like repentance, confession, cross, temptation, self-denial, prayer, and even suffering. If I were to try to use less theological words, I think I'd use words like honesty, struggle, tension, longing, or need. What words do you think of when you think of Lent?

So, as we move from the joyful celebration of Jesus' birth to the more somber time of reflection on his path toward the cross, perhaps we will find we are being invited into a time in which God wants to rearrange the furniture of our souls. Perhaps through this time of prayer and reflection and study, we will find God removing obstacles in our lives that prevent us from experiencing the fullness of joy we anticipate in Easter.

What can we do together to make this journey? Pray daily. Maybe some of you will take up our bishop's invitation to spend an hour a day in some kind of spiritual discipline. Worship regularly. If you come each Sunday open to hearing a word from God through the Scriptures, the music, the sermon, or through one of your fellow worshippers, who knows what might happen? Attend Disciple Bible Study as they begin their study of the New Testament. Attend one of our Sunday School classes that begin February 7. Serve God in some new way.

We'll share more ideas as the season unfolds.

We may not feel ready to start this journey with Jesus toward the cross so soon after worshipping him in the manger. But, I doubt that Jesus himself always felt ready for each successive step God called him to take in his life and ministry. I do know that if we'll just take a few steps toward God in some intentional way in this season, God will meet us somewhere along the way.

I look forward to walking with you toward the cross—and beyond!

Peace,

Matt



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



Beginning **February 7**, there will be 3 offerings for adults:

Dean Simpson will lead a class based on the book "Assist Me to Proclaim: The Life and Hymns of Charles Wesley," by John R. Tyson. Charles Wesley was the cofounder of Methodism and the author of more than 9,000 hymns and sacred poems, including such favorites as "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." Tyson traces the remarkable life of this influential man from cradle to grave using rare, previously unpublished hymns, letters, and journal materials.

Robb Stottlemeyer will lead a class "Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy: Richard Rohr on the Legacy of St. Francis." Rohr explores five topics central to Franciscan theology and practice: Atonement Theory, Eco-Spirituality, The Christ who Existed before Christianity, Orthopraxy vs. Verbal Orthodoxy (Living Like Jesus), and Mysticism over Moralism.

Our Young Adult Class, led by Dave Jarvis and Pat Shipley, will continue with their study of the book "Afterlife."

### ACTS OF FAITH

Centenary is a sponsoring faith community in Richmond's **Acts of Faith Theatre Festival**, and we will be offering many opportunities to attend theatre performances as a group. This year several of the productions focus on Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. These would be wonderful experiences to expand what we have been exploring in the Remember and Recommit: Christian Faith and the Civil Rights Movement workshops.

**Saturday, February 6, at 2:00 p.m.**, we will attend a performance of

*I Have a Dream* by Bruce Miller at the Virginia Rep's Children's Theatre of Virginia at Willow Lawn. The phenomenal impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is chronicled in this compelling dramatization of the life and times of one of the most influential and charismatic leaders of the American Century. Inspired by the arrest of Rosa Parks, Dr. King puts his philosophy of nonviolent protest to work. He gains recognition and becomes the dominant force in the Civil Rights Movement during its decade of greatest achievement. Tickets will be around \$15.

**Sunday, February 28, at 2:30 p.m.**, we will attend a Huguenot Community Players production of *The Dining Room* by A.R. Gurney at Huguenot United Methodist Church (10661 Duryea Drive). *The Dining Room* explores tradition, family, values, community, and faith all around a single dining room table where scenes from different time periods overlap and intertwine. Tickets will be \$12 each.

**Friday, March 11, at 8:00 p.m.**, we will attend a Cadence Theatre production of *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall at Virginia Rep's Theatre Gym (next to the November Theatre, at 114 West Broad Street). As The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King drafts his final oration, he candidly reflects upon his personal life, achievements, and unrealized dreams during a humorous late night conversation with the uncommon woman who brings coffee to his hotel room. Tickets will be around \$30 each.

**Friday, March 18, at 8:00 p.m.**, we will attend a performance of *I Do! I Do!* by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt at the Virginia Rep's Barksdale at Hanover Tavern (13181 Hanover Courthouse Road in Hanover). This intimate musical written by the creators of *The Fantasticks* follows two soul-mates as they navigate the joys and challenges of a 50 year marriage. Set to a tuneful, charming score, *I Do! I Do!* is a nostalgic and humorous rediscovery of romance. Tickets will be around \$40 each.

Sign up for any or all of these performances on the bulletin board in the hallway near the kitchen.



### **MARDI GRAS RESCHEDULED!**

This has been a challenging week for all of us with the weather, and after much discussion and many phone calls, the Arts Committee has decided to reschedule the Mardi Gras event (originally planned for Sunday, January 31). We hope to have a much better option to offer, as we celebrate the final meal from our kitchen before the demolition begins in March!!! As you know, Anne O'Byrne is planning a superb program of popular tunes from the past 5 decades, and has lined up Russell Wilson, NOT the football QB, but the fabulous musician who works with the Richmond Symphony, the Forum, and the Jefferson as her accompanist! New details follow:

#### ***Sunday, February 21***

Luncheon, following the 11:00 am worship service - still planning a Mary Gilliam recipe for our '60's inspired menu!

Music program to follow luncheon - Anne O'Byrne & Russell Wilson

\$20 for both lunch and music program

\$10 for either luncheon OR music program

Nursery will be provided, if needed - just let us know!

If you can make it on the new date...your tickets are still good! Tickets will be available from Arts Committee members or you can email Sharon Steele at [steeles2010@yahoo.com](mailto:steeles2010@yahoo.com) or call her at 912-2549 with your reservations. If you have already bought tickets and can't make it on February 21, just let us know and you will get a full refund! Thanks for your continued support!



### **NEW FOYER GROUPS FORMING**

A foyer group is a group of 6 to 8 adults, who meet once a month at each other's homes or a restaurant for a pot luck dinner and conversation. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway outside of the kitchen if you are interested by **Sunday, February 14**. This is a wonderful chance to get better acquainted with others at Centenary!

### **CHILDREN'S MISSION JAR**

Last year Centenary's children decided that they would send the money collected in their mission jar to Heifer International, an organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty by providing animals that are both a resource for food and reliable income. The children sent funds to buy a pig, a water buffalo, and two sheep. They have now raised enough money to buy two goats.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AT CENTENARY**

During the month of January, Ann Davis with the wonderful help of Randolph-Macon College Intern Kaitlyn Holzauer, launched several new social media campaigns. We have had a Facebook presence for a few years, but we are now on twitter (@CentUMCRichmond) and Instagram (CentenaryUMCRichmond). We have also implemented our new weekly email newsletter. We wanted to be more effective in our communications with the congregation so we plan to only send out one email a week on Thursday afternoons unless there is an emergency, cancellation of worship services, or some other critical announcement. And of course work continues on our website – be sure to check us out at [www.centumc.org](http://www.centumc.org).



## OUTREACHINGS

Shalom Farms



What did you have for dinner last night and why? Many factors guide the way we eat: cost, convenience, access, cooking skills, and nutritional awareness. For those of us with ample resources, these factors present us with choices; but for thousands living in poverty in the City of Richmond, these factors become barriers that make it hard for healthy food to end up on the dinner table. Shalom Farms is a ministry of the United Methodist Church in Richmond that since 2008 has sought to provide low-income communities with access to healthy food and the support to live healthy lives. The 6 acre farm itself is in Goochland on land owned by the Westview on the James United Methodist Camp.

In 2015, Shalom Farms grew and distributed 325,000 servings of fresh sustainable produce to low-income communities in Richmond through a variety of programs. They supply produce to the Central Virginia Food Bank and other nutritional programs in the city. It cooperates with Richmond's Healthy Corner Store Initiative to insure that persons living in areas with no ready access to supermarkets still have healthy food options. The Prescription Produce Plan provides weekly prescriptions of healthy food in low-income communities along with weekly health checks and the skills, tools, and support needed to eat healthy. The Youth-Run Farm Stand Program offers kids a chance to access affordable healthy food in their own neighborhood. In addition, many youth and adults benefit from educational and volunteer experiences at the farm. In 2015, 2,800 youth participated in the Shalom Farms experience and a total of 8,468 hours were invested by volunteers.

If you would like to learn more about Shalom Farms or participate as a group or individual volunteer, please see Pat Shipley or visit [Shalomfarms.org](http://Shalomfarms.org). Volunteer opportunities for 2016 will begin in April.

### **FROM OUR INTERN:** Kaitlyn Holzhauer

People have always told me that God works in mysterious ways. When I applied for an internship through Randolph-Macon College this January, I wasn't expecting Him to work in my life. I'm twenty-one years old and haven't had a stable relationship with Christ yet, so I honestly wasn't expecting anything to change. I'm not going to claim my relationship with Christ has been transformed, but I will tell you the truth; He was working on me even when I didn't know it.

The staff at Centenary has been extremely welcoming since day one. They've invited me to lunch, helped me with every day challenges, and have even invited me to a worship service or two. Even though I declined their invitation to a Sunday at Centenary, they still invited me to just as many lunches and helped me work the copier maybe seventy times (thank you, Mandy). I hadn't anticipated being placed in a church for my internship, but I wasn't opposed to it either. I like to think I'm the type of person that's open to new environments, experiences, and people. The first few weeks went by in the blink of an eye. I had come up with a million and one projects I'd like to accomplish before my time here ends. The days were going by fast and I'd been pleasantly surprised with my ability to help with their Walk-In Ministry and not get caught in too many prayers. Then He hits me...

I get a call from my best friend that a loved one of hers has passed away unexpectedly. It's a Friday morning and I've just finished getting my office work done early and volunteering in the kitchen. I make a few calls for her and try to do anything I can to make her day easier. My heart is tearing at the edges because it is so full for her family. I'm rushing through the sanctuary to drop off last minute paperwork to my supervisor Ann so I can leave, when it hits me. He hits me. I am standing in the most beautiful, peaceful place in all of downtown Richmond and it happens. My heart bursts at the seams and it's open. And I pray. And I cry. And I pray a little more. It's my first prayer I've sent up in over a year and I'm hoping he hears it.

How I could've walked through a church every single day for almost three weeks and not prayed, I don't know. What I do know, is that He found his way back into my life. Maybe it was just a single prayer, but that's one more prayer than I had in all of 2015. Thank you Centenary for being a constant source of motivation and kindness for me this January. I couldn't have asked for a better internship experience or experience in general.





The scripture readings are provided so that you may read and reflect upon them during the days prior to each worship service.



**Transfiguration Sunday**

**February 7, 2016**

Exodus 34:29-35  
Psalm 99 (UMH 819)  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 9:2-36 (37-43a)

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 10, 2016**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785)  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**First Sunday in Lent**

**February 14, 2016**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (UMH 810)  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**February 21, 2016**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27 (UMH 758)  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**February 28, 2016**

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8 (UMH 788)  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9



God has poured out his love into our hearts ....

Romans 5:5

**NOTES FROM THE LAY LEADER**

*Phyllis Stump*



The Bishop's Convocation on Prayer 2016 will be held on Saturday, March 5, at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Avenue, Richmond, VA 23229. The theme is "Deepening Discipleship: Piety and Mercy through Prayer."

Bishop Cho invites us, as a Prayer Covenant Congregation, to engage "one hour daily" in spiritual disciplines (intercessory prayer, sacred or spiritual reading, centering prayer, breath prayer, contemplative prayer, fasting, etc.). Remember, we are to pray, at least weekly, for the renewal and revival of our congregation, the Virginia Conference, and the United Methodist Church.

Registration information will be available at a later date. We will put that information in the Sunday bulletins as soon as it is available.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 *Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*



Congratulations to Rachel Bates who graduated in December from VCU with a Masters Degree in Urban Planning. Rachel began a new job in January as the Director of Membership and Communications for the Virginia Housing Alliance, a newly formed non-profit whose mission is expanding affordable housing opportunities and ending homelessness throughout the Commonwealth through advocacy, education, and collaboration.



### **CHRISTMAS CARD WRITING PROJECT THANKS!**

Thanks to all who contributed Christmas cards, postage, or time during this year's Christmas Card Writing Project for Walk-Ins. Sarah and Duane Hunter did a beautiful job of organizing and displaying the cards in an attractive manner, as well as encouraging guests to participate; they also saw the job to completion each day. Marshall Ballance helped on several occasions, and Bernice Walter attached the stamps to the addressed envelopes and mailed them all three days. Clients seemed pleased with the opportunity to have cards to deliver or mail themselves. They also expressed their appreciation to veterans by writing about 70 cards, which were delivered to the VA Hospital. As you can see, this project allows guests to experience the joy of doing for others during the Christmas Season. Again, this year two Gideons were on hand to interact with guests and give out Bibles to those desiring them. We're thankful to have these faithful men here to help spread the good news to those in need.

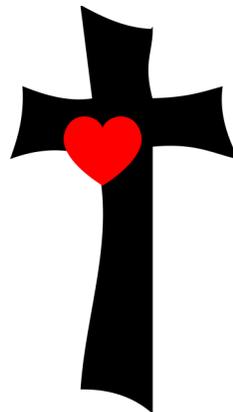


### **BELL TOWER TO BASEMENT TOUR**

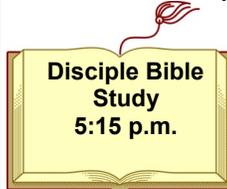
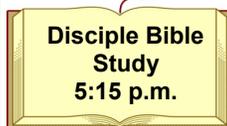
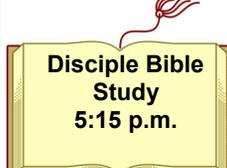
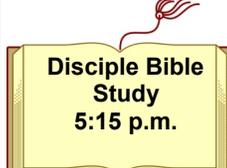
On Monday, February 8th, at 6:00 p.m. we will be having a bell tower to basement building tour of Centenary. We hope to see you there!

One hundred years from now,  
It will not matter what kind of car I drove,  
What kind of house I lived in,  
Or how much money I had in the bank,  
But the world may be a better place because I  
made a difference in a person's life.

-Anonymous



# February 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Every Sunday</b> 8:40 AM Informal Worship  10:00 AM Sunday School  11:00 AM Traditional Worship	<b>Every Monday</b> 10:30 AM Zumba Class	<b>Every Tuesday</b> 11:30-1:30 P.M. <b>Sanctuary Open for Prayer</b>  12:00 PM Fellowship Group at Aunt Sarah's  12:00 PM - AA	<b>Every Wednesday</b> 10:30 AM Zumba Class  12:00 PM Staff Meeting  7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice	<b>Every Thursday</b>	<b>Every Friday</b> 10:30 AM Walk-In & Bless My Sole Ministries  12:00 PM - AA	
	1	2 	3  Disciple Bible Study 5:15 p.m.	4 Remember & Recommit Meeting at 7:00 p.m. 	5	6 Theatre Outing to / Have a Dream at 2:00 p.m. 
7 Praise Chorus Practice 8:00 a.m. 	8 Bell Tower to Basement Tour at 6 p.m./ Finance Meeting at 7 p.m./ Admin Council at 8 p.m.	9	10  Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m.  Disciple Bible Study 5:15 p.m.	11	12	13 Centenary 2020 Meeting 9 a.m. 
14  HAPPY VALENTINES DAY Praise Chorus Practice 8:00 a.m./ Orchid Club Meeting 1-5 p.m.	15 THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED 	16	17  Disciple Bible Study 5:15 p.m.	18	19	20
21 Mardi Gras! Following 11 am service 	22	23	24  Disciple Bible Study 5:15 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Theatre Outing~ The Dining Room, 2 p.m. 	29					
						



# ***FEBRUARY HELPERS***



## **ACOLYTES**

- 07 Christina Kidd
- 14 Taylor Lee
- 21 Isabel Junker
- 28 Katie Shingleton

## **ALTAR GUILD**

- 07 Florence Clay Bishop
- 10 (Ash Wed) Ginny Jarvis
- 14 Nancy Grand
- 21 Barrett Brown
- 28 Sylvia Whaley

## **BANNER BEARERS**

- 07 Agatha Kidd
- 14 Vic Grand
- 21 Chris Junker
- 28 Ryland Bailey, Jr.

## **COMMUNION STEWARDS**

- 7 Vikki Brock, Vicki Willson, & Suzanne Ray
- 10 (Ash Wed) Suzanne Ray, Barbara Pierson

## **GREETERS**

- 07 Ryland Bailey, Sr. & Ryland Bailey, Jr.
- 14 Anne Baughan & Barrett Brown
- 21 John & Bette Dillehay
- 28 Connie Bennington & Susan Thomas

## **HALL MONITORS**

- 07 Steve Gregory  
Justin Bates\*
- 14 Robb Stottlemeyer  
Wilbur Cheatham\*
- 21 Bob Hundley, Sr.  
Matthew Steele\*
- 28 Alan Davis  
Sylvia Whaley\*

## **LAY READERS**

- 07 Doug Wilson
- 14 Alan Davis
- 21 Vic Grand
- 28 Nancy Grand

## **TELLERS**

- 01 Jan Nelson & Bob Hundley, Sr.
- 08 Barbara Pierson & Mary Dobbs
- 16 (Tuesday)** Barbara Pierson & Barrett Brown
- 22 Barrett Brown & Suzanne Ray
- 29 Mary Dobbs & Suzanne Ray

## **USHERS**

- Lorna Leake (Captain)
- Dan Corcoran
- Les Dobbs
- Kim Chen
- Lee Chen

**REMINDER: IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO BE HERE ON YOUR SCHEDULED SUNDAY, PLEASE FIND A SUBSTITUTE AND NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE OF THE CHANGE.**

## **COORDINATORS**

### Lay Readers:

Phyllis Stump (330-2544)

### Greeters and Hall Monitors:

Sylvia Whaley & Clint Jones  
(795-5492)

### Tellers:

Suzanne Ray (262-4854)

### Ushers:

Sylvia Whaley &  
Clint Jones (795-5492)

**CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
411 EAST GRACE STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, 23219**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Worship.....8:40 a.m.  
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.  
Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.

**STAFF**

Senior Minister.....Matthew D. Bates  
Minister to Senior Adults.....Cheryl Owen-Watson  
Director of Music/Organist.....Stanley M. Baker  
Director of Membership Development.....Ann Davis  
Administrative Assistant.....Mandy Porter  
Senior Accountant.....John Lampe  
Facilities Manager.....Al Richardson  
Sexton.....Saran Yin  
Choir Section Leaders ..... Brittany Brooks  
..... Alexandra Goia  
..... Todd Minnich  
..... Sam Cook  
Early Service Musician.....Lee Covington  
Nursery Worker.....Melissa Martinez  
Nursery Worker.....Shannon Hocutt

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Mandy – cent.umc@verizon.net  
Stan – dirmusic@verizon.net  
John - finsecretary3@verizon.net**

**Centenary United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation, extending hospitality and encouraging full participation of all, regardless of age, race, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, educational or economic background and physical or mental ability.**